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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Growing Up Black In a White Family Explores Race, Family and Adoption



Michael Gaither

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Michael Gaither wasn't expecting this new chapter in his life to unfold like this: a newly minted published author.

After retiring from his job at an executive coaching business in September 2025, something inside told him to put his story of being a black child adopted by a white family down on paper.

"You're busy when you're working, helping people," Gaither said. "You don't have time to focus on yourself. When I stopped that, now time was on my side."

He started writing the book in January, and the result, "I Was Your Black Child: What White Parents Raising Black Children Need to Hear Before It's Too Late," was released in October. It is available at Amazon.com.

"When it's your story, it doesn't take long," said Gaither, of the Village of Richmond. "I didn't realize the power of my story until I started writing about it and speaking about it. It's an amazing start of a new journey for me.

"It's the first time I did anything like this," Gaither said. "It feels good to have it out there. I'm thankful and blessed."

"I Was Your Black Child" talks about Gaither's experience growing up as a black child in a white family in Lincoln, Nebraska. It also offers guidance to parents who have adopted a child of a different race.

"I want to talk real from what it was like as an adoptee," Gaither said. "There are a lot of things we keep inside and never say anything. If they're not the same race as you, have them around people who look like them. They need to understand that culture, to see role models in the community that look like them.

"You can love the child and everything will be OK," he said. "But you have to go outside your home. That love doesn't protect you."

Toward the end of the book, he talks about how, at the age of 49, he reunited with his biological family on both sides thanks to a little sleuthing from a Facebook group and inputting information into Ancestry.com.

"I had a flood of information," he said.

For information, visit beyondthemomentadoptionstudio.com.